

Amendments to the Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a call processing system to handle a call placed to a called telephone number from a caller having a caller telephone number, the method comprising:

receiving call set-up signaling for the call;

prior to service discrimination, processing the called telephone number from the call set-up signaling to determine if the called telephone number is toll-free;

if the called telephone number is not toll-free, then checking the caller telephone number in a validation table to determine if the call should be allowed;

if the call should be allowed based on the validation table, then processing the called telephone number to select a route for the call;

if the called telephone number is toll-free, then processing the called telephone number to select the route for the call without checking the caller telephone number in the validation table;

after selecting the route for the call, generating and transferring a message indicating the route selected for the call.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the set-up signaling comprises a Signaling System #7 Initial Address Message ~~an initial address message~~.

9. (Cancelled)